

**LOWERLINE STREET
COMMUNICATION STRATEGY
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana
April 5, 2019
*****DRAFT*******

*******NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE*******

The communication strategy will be the plan for providing information and getting input about a specific issue.

EPA OSC/Greg Fife

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EPA CIC/Janetta Coats

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ONCE DEVELOPED KEY MESSAGE WILL BE INCLUDED:

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Removal Action pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§9601 et seq., at the Lowerline Site (the Site) in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The proposed action includes the removal and offsite disposal of Radium contaminated soil and road base on the Site.

This action meets the criteria for initiating a removal action under the National Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 CFR §300.415. This action is expected to require less _____ months to complete.

The Lowerline Site is a street in a residential area in the City of New Orleans (City). Radiological sweeps by the Department of Energy (DOE), the latest being in 2017 for an event at the Superdome, identified a hot spot on Lowerline Street. Further investigation by Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality better defined the hot spot as being Radium-226 (Ra-226). The activity registered on meters at the surface indicated a potential source of 1 to 10 milli-Curies (mCi). It was believed to be a discreet seal source. The City worked with LDEQ and hired a contractor to excavate and remove the source.

The excavation did not find a sealed source but found contaminated source below the original pavement level in the street. The excavation was approximately 36" x 36" and 30" deep. The contaminated soil was isolated, containerized and shielded in a drum. The subsequent radiation walking survey found five additional areas of subsurface contamination. Those five areas can be consolidated into three areas for reasonable excavation work. The consolidated areas are 5'x5', 10'x20' and 20'x40'. The survey extended the block and the intersecting street until the readings were not elevated. The contractor also surveyed the adjacent properties and did not find any contamination beyond the street.

Location:

The Site is located on the 3400 block of Lowerline Street. Near the intersection of Coolidge Court and bounded by Olive Street and Edinburgh Street. The area is known as Gert Town. It is mostly residential with supporting businesses. That block of Lowerline St has several vacant lots and possibly abandoned homes. Xavier University is just two blocks away.

Key messages to be communicated for this issue/problem:

"WHAT WE FOUND"

EPA has determined thru sampling efforts the soil is contaminated and should be removed.

The soil is being removed because of concerns of radionuclide Radium-226. The Ra-226 was found below the surface in the roadbed.

"WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT"

The removal action will involve the excavation, removal and offsite disposal of the contaminated soil and any sealed source of containers that may be used while removing the contaminated soil. Approximately 150 cubic yards will be removed.

Information on this site will be available on the EPA's Superfund website at: [HYPERLINK "http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl"]. The Superfund website will be updated as the removal efforts continue.

Note: All media/press inquiries should be directed to Region 6 press office: 214.665.2200

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
4.22.2019	Established Info. Repository	6SF-Coats	Complete
4.22.2019	Draft Comm. Strategy	6SF-Coats	On-going
4.26.2019	Draft Notification Public Notice	6SF-Coats	TBD
4.??2019	Draft CIP/prior field work	6SF-VO	TBD
TBD	Drafting Q&A	Health Dept.	On-going
TBD	Review Q&A	??	

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?? Complete

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City/NO/Cheryn

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6SF-Coats

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Name of Community Representative/Organization	?	On-going
5.18.2019 thru 5.19.2019	Outreach in the community	Team On-going
5.28.2019	Removal Efforts Begin	EPA Oversight/Contractors On-going
TBD	Removal Efforts Complete	

Contract Support/Weston Solutions, Inc.,

David Bordelon

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Note: Information Repository

Xavier University Library

Nancy Hampton/Head of Collection Resources

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504.520.7534

PLAYGROUND:

New Orleans Recreation Department

Larry Barribino